

## NEW CANAAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### PERFORMANCE STANDARDS for GRADUATION

To graduate from the New Canaan Public Schools, every student must earn a minimum of 23 credits and have met the proper credit distribution requirement. Students must also meet performance standards in reading, communication, mathematical problem solving, scientific reasoning, research, technology, and citizenship. (See standards defined below.) Three of these performance standards shall take effect for the graduating class of 2006: reading, communication, and research. The other four performance standards are under development and will be added at a later date.

#### **Graduation Requirements – (*Combination of prescribed credits and district Performance Standards*)**

##### **I. Credit Distribution Requirement**

Students must earn a minimum of 23 credits in the following areas:

<b>AREA</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Freshman English	
Language, Literature and Composition	
Junior English	
Senior or AP English	
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>3.0</b>
U.S. History (2 semesters)	
Civics (one semester beginning in 2003-2004)	<b>.5</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Grade 9, .5, grade 10, .5, grade 11, .25, <u>and</u> grade 12, .25	
<b>Fine Arts</b> (Any music or art course)	<b>.5</b>
<b>Applied Academics</b>	<b>.5</b>
Any course in Technology Education, Family and Consumer Science, or Business, or a semester of Cooperative Work Experience	
<b>Comprehensive Health</b>	<b>.5</b>
Grade 9, .25, grade 10, .08, grade 11, .08, grade 12, .09	
<b>World Languages and Electives</b>	

## **II. District's Performance Standards:**

### **Class of 2006**

Students will read, comprehend, and analyze fiction, non-fiction, and technical material to obtain information and build an understanding of the text, themselves, and the world around them.

Students will communicate effectively in writing by applying appropriate structures and conventions.

Students will engage in research by locating, critically selecting, interpreting, organizing, and synthesizing information from print, non-print, and electronic sources to increase knowledge, solve problems, and construct meaning.

### **Class of 2007**

Students will use appropriate technology to effectively access, manage and communicate information, understanding, and ideas.

Students will communicate effectively through artistic expression by applying appropriate structures and conventions.

### **Class of 2008**

Students will represent a problem using mathematics and will know that mathematics is a necessary tool for understanding the physical and social world.

Students will apply the scientific method to discover the rules of nature.

### **Class of 2009**

Students will understand the ideals, principles, and practices of citizens that reflect a democratic republic.

Students will communicate effectively through speaking by applying appropriate structures and conventions.

*The following section is subject to further analysis and Board of Education approval.*

To graduate from New Canaan High School a student in the class of 2006 must earn 23 credits, meet the credit distribution requirements, and satisfactorily demonstrate the district's performance standards in Writing, Reading, and Research.

**Standards for Writing:**

**Students will communicate effectively in writing by applying appropriate structures and conventions.**

A student may demonstrate the performance standard by  
meeting state goal on the Writing Across the Disciplines section of the  
Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)  
or  
achieving a score of 7 or above on the annual English portfolio assessment in May  
of sophomore year  
or  
achieving a score of 7 or above on a revised English portfolio that is submitted to  
the annual English portfolio assessment May of junior year  
or  
successfully completing a written performance task that is modeled on the CAPT  
Writing Across the Disciplines test in senior year. Such task will be designed and  
graded by an interdisciplinary team of teachers.

**Standard for Reading:**

**Students will read, comprehend, and analyze fiction, non-fiction, and technical material to obtain information and build an understanding of the text, themselves, and the world around them.**

A student may demonstrate the performance standard by  
meeting state goal of the Reading Across the Disciplines section of the  
Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT)  
or  
achieving 50 on the verbal section of the Preliminary Scholastic Achievement  
Test (PSAT)  
or  
achieving 500 on the verbal section of Scholastic Achievement Test  
or  
successfully completing a performance task in 12<sup>th</sup> grade that is modeled on the  
CAPT Reading Across the Disciplines. Such task will be designed and graded by  
an interdisciplinary team of teachers.

**Standard for Research:**

**Students will engage in research by locating, critically selecting, interpreting, organizing, and synthesizing information from print, non-print, and electronic sources to increase knowledge, solve problems, and construct meaning.**

A student may demonstrate the performance standard by  
achieving a score of 7 or above on the annual English portfolio assessment in May of sophomore year

or

achieving a score of 7 or above on a portfolio that is submitted to the annual English portfolios assessment in May of junior year

or

successfully completing a research paper using agreed upon standards in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade to be assessed by an interdisciplinary team of teachers

**Standards for Artistic Expression:**

**Students will communicate effectively through artistic expression by applying appropriate structures and conventions. (Class 2007)**

A student may demonstrate the performance standard by  
creating a collection of works of visual art in an art course that earns at least a score of three on the performance assessment.

or

performing successfully in a music course on an individual assessment in which the student must earn a minimum of 3 out of 5 on each performance indicator. Rubrics that apply to each student's voice or instrumental category will be used.

or

creating, arranging and producing through the use of technology in a music technology course a portfolio of music that earns at least a score of three on the performance indicators.

or

taking another Fine Arts course and assessment OR petitioning the Fine Arts Coordinator to arrange for another assessment.

**Assessment for Technology Integration Standard**  
**Standards for LRAIT: Learning Resources and Information Technology**

**Students will use appropriate technology to effectively access, manage and communicate information, understanding, and ideas.**

A student may fulfill the performance standard by demonstrating mastery of a minimum number of technology competencies integrated into projects chosen from the following options:

achieving a satisfactory score on a technology integration\* project that incorporates Learning Resources and Information Technology competencies and was completed as a requirement of his/her coursework during the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> grades.

or

achieving a satisfactory score on a technology integration\* project that incorporates Learning Resources and Information Technology competencies and was completed as an independent project.

or

achieving a satisfactory score on a technology integration\* project that incorporates Learning Resources and Information Technology competencies and was completed as a Senior or Independent Study Project.

\*A technology integration project is one that seamlessly incorporates technology in a meaningful way. The simple insertion of technology for technology's sake does not in and of itself represent technology integration.

**Exemptions**

We expect that the majority of students receiving special services will meet the graduation requirements. Only through an IEP or 504 plan will students be exempted when necessary.